

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03

FEA-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 /110 W
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R 151702Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1120

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7101

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS

REF: STATE 110686

1. SUMMARY. MFA WISHES REFLECT PRIOR TO PROVIDING REACTION TO WHAT IR RECOGNIZES IS MAJOR US INITIATIVE. EMBASSY REFLECTS ON ELEMENTS OF ITALIAN REACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. WE PROVIDED COPIES SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAY 14. ECON-COMM MINISTER SAW RICIULLI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MAY 15 FOR PRELIMINARY REVIEW AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TO CONVEY CONTENTS REFTEL. SECRETARY'S SPEECH MISSED DEADLINE

FOR ITALIAN PRESS MAY 14 AND ALL ITALIAN PAPERS WERE ON STRIKE MAY 15 THUS SPEECH HAS RECEIVED NO ITALIAN PRESS REPORTING OR COMMENT. WE ARE MAKING EXTRAORDINARY DISTRIBUTION TO RELEVANT MINISTRIES, ENI, CONFINDUSTRIA AND OTHERS.

3. RICIULLI SAID THAT ON FIRST READING OF SPEECH HE COULD SEE THERE IS SERIES OF IMPORTANT CHANGES IN US VIEWS WHICH WILL REQUIRE SERIOUS REFLECTION. HE CALLED IN DIRECTOR OF ENERGY OFFICE (COSTA) AND MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (MINGAZZINI) TO RECEIVE US VIEWS ON TACTICS FOR REOPENING P/C DIALOGUE (PARA 3 REFTEL). RICIULLI ALSO ASKED WHETHER ANY COUNTRIES HAS BEEN CONSULTED IN ADVANCE (ECON-COMM MINISTER LEARNED IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH FRANSISCSCI OF ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE THAT MFA HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED QTE PUZZLING UNQTE TELEGRAM FROM BONN REPORTING WHAT APPEARED TO BE SUDDEN AND SUBSTANTIAL FRG REVERSAL OF POSITION ON LINKING P/C DISCUSSION OF OIL TO OTHER RAW MATERIALS).

4. RICIULLI CHARACTERISTICALLY REFRAINED FROM FURTHER COMMENT. ECON-COMM MINISTER STRESSED UTILITY OF PROVIDING AS COMPLETE A REACTION AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. RICIULLI SAID HE WOULD BEGIN INTRA-MINISTRY EXAMINATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US.

5. COMMENT: RICIULLI'S NORMAL CAUTION WAS PROBABLY REINFORCED BY CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN MFA AS REGARDS ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS POLICY. MFA HAS BEEN RESTUDYING ITALIAN POSITION AND SECRETARY'S SPEECH PUTS NEW ELEMENT INTO ALREADY COMPLICATED SET OF PROBLEMS. WE NEVERTHELESS, EXPECT ITALIAN REACTION ON BROADER ASPECTS OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO COMBINE: (A) SOME RELIEF THAT US IS MOVING AWAY FROM WHAT THEY PERCEIVED AS TACTICS WHICH COULD LEAD TO P/C AND LCD/DC CONFRONTATIONS IN WHICH ITALIAN INTERESTS WOULD BE DANAGED; (B) A WELCOMING OF NEW US FLEXIBILITY ON PRICE STABILIZATION, SECURITY OF SUPPLY AND GROWTH OF RAW MATERIAL PRODUCTION; AND (C) QUESTIONS WHETHER NEW US INITIATIVES COULD LEAD TO SITUATION WHERE ITALY AS ONE OF THE WEAKER DC'S AND ONE OF THE MOST DEPENDENT ON RAW MATERIAL IMPORTS WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT INCOME-TRANSFERRING COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS OR PAY FOR SUPPLY ACCESS OR EXPANSION OF OUTPUT BY PROVISION OF CAPITAL. VOLPE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY, POLICIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME07101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750171-1141
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750549/aaaabrww.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 110686
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS
TAGS: ENRG, IT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006